

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 /040 W

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R 091602Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8284

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2240

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK PE ES

SUBJ: BRIBERY OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS BY U.S. CORPORATIONS

REF: A. STATE 114551, B. STATE 120843

1. DISCUSSIONS WITH PRINCIPAL GOES OFFICIALS HAVE OCCURRED AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL B. ONMAY 29 THE AMBASSAJOR MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO AND THE ECONOFF CALLED ON FINANCE MINISTER MARTINEZ AND ECONOMY UNDER-SECRETARY ROBLES JUNE 5. COPIES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT (REFTEL A) WERE LEFT WITH EACH.

2. ALL GOES OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE THE POTENTIALLY DAMAGING EFFECT ON US MULTINATIONALS FROM THE RECENT NEWS STORIES OF BRIBERY, BUT THEY FELT THE NORMS OF CONDUCT ARE BETTER ESTABLISHED AND LESS FLEXIBLE IN EL SALVADOR, THUS REDUCING THE NEED OF POSSIBILITY FOR BRIBERY. THEY WERE SENSITIVE TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT PUBLICITY OF ANY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS (VOLUNTARY OR NOT) BY U.S. FIRMS DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS OF ELECTIONS COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING AND OUR INDIRECT MESSAGE, I.E. THAT CAMPAIGN COLLECTIONS FROM U.S. COMPANIES COULD BE HIGHLY DETRIMENTAL, MAY BE BENEFICIAL TO US FIRMS HERE AS WELL AS OUR LARGER INTERESTS OF GOOD RELATIONS

3. MINISTER BORGONOVO SAID US AND JAPANESE FIRMS HAD BEEN
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CONTRIBUTORS TO THE OFFICIAL PARTY IN THE LAST ELECTION. FINANCE

MINISTER MARTINEZ SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY LEGAL PROHIBITIONS
TO "COOPERATE" BY MAKING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT UNDERSTOOD
THAT EMBARRASSMENT COULD RESULT FROM FOREIGN (E.G. U.S.) PRESS
PLAY UP OF WHAT WOULD BE ILLEGAL IN THE U.S.
CAMPBELL

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Message Attributes

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